DC COMICS™

6

THE NEW 52!

GREEN LANTERN

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GAGEO-DO ISLAND.
THE YELLOW SEA.

THEY CALL THEMSELVES *THE AWOL*...

...A COLLECTION OF DESERTERS FROM VARIOUS CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS PULLING HEISTS FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

AND THEY PICKED THE PRISON BECAUSE IT'S WHERE THEY ALL MET AND BECAME BESTIES?

OR MORE LIKELY RUMORS OF ITS RADIOACTIVITY KEEP VISITORS AWAY. THE REMAINS OF ***CELLBLOCK D*** ARE OVER THE NEXT RIDGE.

I'VE GOT TO SAY, THERE ARE WORSE PLACES TO PUT YOUR ***ASIAN SUPERMAX PRISON.*** BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS, NICE BEACHES FOR SWIMMING OR--

--FISHING.

HELENA!

Whuff!

THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION

ORCA!

HCCCHHHH!

LET ME MODIFY THAT! ZOMBIE ORCA *WITH LEGS!*

DESPITE THE PRISON'S DESTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF *MOTHER MACHINE**, THE *SECURITY NANOCYTES* ARE STILL ACTIVE. LACKING HUMAN HOSTS...

TAK

*SEE *BLACKHAWKS* #1 --DOYLE

...THEY BOND WITH THE NEXT DEADLIEST CREATURE THEY CAN FIND.

SKRCH

RETURN TO THE OCEAN AND SWIM FREE, WILLY.

WOK

HCCCHHHH!

DO I GET A "GOOD EYES, AGENT 37"? "THANK YOU FOR PREVENTING ME FROM BEING LAND-CHUM"?

YOU GET A "STOP MAKING STUPID POP CULTURE REFERENCES AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. THESE ARE DESPERATE MEN."

HEY, I'VE LOST SOMEONE ON THIS JOB ALREADY, OKAY? I DON'T-- *CAN'T--*

DICK.

WE ARE TOO LATE.

Aw, GEEZ.

WHAT DID THIS? THE NANOCYTES?

WRITER / TIM SEELEY PLOT BY TIM SEELEY & TOM KING ARTIST / MIKEL JANÍN
COLORIST / JEROMY COX LETTERER / CARLOS M. MANGUAL
COVER / MIKEL JANÍN FLASH 75TH VARIANT COVER / JOCK
ASSISTANT EDITOR / MATT HUMPHREYS EDITOR / MARK DOYLE

NO. THE WOUNDS ARE MOSTLY EDGED WEAPONS. PROFESSIONAL. *MULTIPLE* ATTACKERS...

SORRY, MAN.

...BUT NOT TRAINED TOGETHER. INDIVIDUAL STYLES. CHAOTIC.

COMPETITIVE.

ALL OF THIS FOR A LUMP OF FAT? WHAT THE HELL DOES THIS "BRAIN" DO--?

--Gah! *MATRON!*

SHNK

Ghk!

WE AREN'T SURE OF THE BRAIN'S FUNCTION. THERE ARE RUMORS. WHISPERS. BUT LITTLE ELSE.

MOVE THE BODIES AND PREP THE PRISONER. I'LL REPORT TO BASE.

Aggkkk!

Aaaiiigkk!

OH SHUT UP, NUTJOB.

DIRECTOR, THIS IS MATRON.

Heh.

YOUR NIFTY ***HYPNOS*** TECH TRICK MAY MAKE IT SO I CAN'T SEE SPYRAL AGENTS' FACES...

...BUT I'D KNOW THAT ASS ANYWHERE.

"GRAYSON."

YES, SIR, WE TRACKED THE ITEM TO GAGEO-DO. BUT THERE'S BEEN A COMPLICATION. IT APPEARS THE PIECE WAS STOLEN FROM THE AWOL BY A *THIRD PARTY.*

MR. MINOS, I'M...SORRY. WE HAVE A PRISONER, BUT...

*...I BELIEVE **PARAGON'S BRAIN** IS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF THE **FIST OF CAIN.***

THANK YOU FOR THE REPORT, MATRON. KEEP ME INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF YOUR INTERROGATION.

YES, SIR. MATRON OUT.

Nnh. YOU'RE WORTH SOME POINTS, FACELESS BABY. D'YA FEEL SPECIAL? WANNA FEEL SPECIAL?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GET INTO THIS CREEP'S HEAD? I'LL--I CAN DO IT.

Unh?

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT I WOULD PREFER YOU QUIETLY STAND GUARD IN CASE THERE ARE MORE FISH IN THESE WATERS. EMPHASIS ON "QUIETLY."

HYPNOS INTERROGATION TAKES A PRACTICED AND CONCENTRATED HAND AND EVEN THEN IT CAN RESULT IN...WHAT DID YOU SO ELOQUENTLY CALL IT?

Ah, YES. "A TWO-BRAIN OMELET."

SPYRAL HQ.

MR. MINOS? SIR? I HEARD A DREADFUL SCREAM AND I THOUGHT--

--OH.

DR. ASHMORE

WHY DID I COME IN HERE? SILLY POPPY. *Hmm*--I THINK I LEFT THE COFFEE POT ON.

I...I APOLOGIZE. I SHOULD HAVE BETTER SECURED THE AREA FOR OUR MEETING. I WAS... DISTRACTED.

IT IS OF LITTLE CONCERN. WE ARE IMPERCEPTIBLE AND UNMEMORABLE TO ALL SAVE THE DIRECTOR OF SPYRAL.

WE NEITHER PERCEIVE NOR REMEMBER OURSELVES.

WE PERCEIVE ONLY OTHERS, ALL OTHERS, NO MATTER HOW SUBTLE, LIKE A FLY TOUCHING UPON THE THREADS OF THE WEB.

WE ARE **SPYDER.** WE ARE WISDOM.

AND WE BELIEVE YOU ARE TAKING THIS CASE PERSONALLY, MR. MINOS.

NO. IT IS...IT'S JUST ANOTHER MISSION. I HAVE EVERY FAITH MY AGENTS WILL RETRIEVE THE ITEM. THE PERPETRATORS ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, OUR OFFER REMAINS. WE CAN REMOVE THE MEMORY, WHICH IN TURN WILL REMOVE THE PAIN. WE ARE **SPYDER.** WE ARE KINDNESS.

I--NO. NO. YOUR GIFT IS COURTEOUS BUT UNNECESSARY.

NOW, I MUST ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS. MINOS OUT.

I HAVE GIVEN UP MY NAME. I HAVE GIVEN UP MY FACE. ALL I HAVE LEFT OF WHO I WAS...

...IS MY PAIN.

ISN'T THIS A NICE PLACE? SO WARM AND COMFORTABLE. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

JARED. MY FRIENDS CALL ME "*MACABRE.*"

I'M GOING TO CALL YOU *MACABRE* TOO, BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?

I--I KNOW YOU. HOW DO I KNOW YOU? WERE YOU AT MY FIRST COMMUNION?

YES. I WAS THE LITTLE GIRL IN THE WHITE DRESS. THE ONE YOU ALWAYS LIKED BUT WERE TOO SHY TO TALK TO.

N--

HEY YA, DICK.

FUNNY SEEING YOU HERE, ALL THE WAY OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN, ISN'T IT?

Y--YES. SMALL WORLD.

IT IS. I LOST SOMETHING HERE. MAYBE YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS FOUND IT? IT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF A LOAF OF BREAD...

Unh.

FIRST TIME THROUGH A "DOOR," HUH? KINDA MESSES WITH YOUR GUTS, DOESN'T IT?

MIDNIGHTER. WHERE?

THIS IS THE *GOD GARDEN.*

IT'S A... WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT A REFUGE.

FOR MONSTERS MADE BY MAN. FOR THE THINGS THAT GET SWEPT UNDER THE RUG. LOCKED IN THE LABORATORY. "I OUGHT TO BE THY ADAM..."

WHOA.

SHRREGHK!

"...BUT I AM RATHER THE FALLEN ANGEL."

I'M ON A MISSION. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CHEST-THUMPING, YOU *GOTH CLUB BOUNCER.*

LIVES ARE AT STAKE. SOME VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN HOLD OF THE *PARAGON BRAIN.*

TAK

S'FUNNY. SEE, I WAS ON A MISSION TOO, WHEN YOU GOT IN MY WAY.

CRSH

I ALSO WAS TRYING TO KEEP SUPERHUMAN EXPERIMENTS OUT OF THE HANDS OF "SOME VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE"; THIS ONE PARTICULAR BUNCH OF BASTARDS CALLED *SPYRAL.*

YOU GOT IN MY WAY IN RUSSIA. THEN AGAIN IN THE EMPTY QUARTER. YOU SHOULD KNOW: I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO HOLDS A *GRUDGE.*

CHAK

SPYRAL IS ALL ABOUT DECEPTION. TREACHERY. *LIES.*

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

NF!

OH, I GET IT. YOU TRADED IN THE SUPERTIGHTS FOR A DECODER RING BUT YOU THINK YOU'RE STILL THE GOOD GUY. BUT YOU'VE CHANGED.

YOU'RE JUST LYING TO YOURSELF. YOU'RE ONE OF *THEM* NOW.

SEE, ONCE I FOUND OUT WHO WAS HIDING BEHIND THAT CUTE SWIRL, I DID SOME RESEARCH INTO WHO YOU *WERE.*

KRAK

Ungh!

I WATCHED ALL OF YOUR HOME MOVIES. *FLYING GRAYSONS* VIDS. FOOTAGE FROM *GOTHAM POLICE* CAMERAS.

PAK

I SAW THE RHYTHM BENEATH IT ALL.

SKRCH

I CAN HUM ALONG WITH YOUR *JAZZ* NOW.

I MEMORIZED EVERY MOVE YOU'VE EVER MADE...

...RIGHT DOWN TO THE SMIRK ON YOUR FACE RIGHT BEFORE YOU JUMP, "*NIGHTWING.*" I *KNOW* YOU.

THRUM

Nnnf. YOU KNOW NIGHTWING'S MOVES.

DO YOU KNOW *ROBIN'S?*

KRAK

YOU CAN DO JAZZ.

WOK

HOW ARE YOU AT *PUNK ROCK?*

Woof!

Nf. YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR ENHANCEMENTS ENOUGH THAT I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGH. I PROBABLY CAN'T TAKE YOU ONE-ON-ONE.

PROBABLY.

SO, I'M GONNA EVEN IT UP WITH A LITTLE "ENHANCEMENT" OF MY OWN. MAKE SOME EYES AT ME, 'NIGHTIE.

WHAT--?

--MY *HYPNOS?!*

KRAK

OH, YEAH. I FORGOT TO MENTION.

THE GOD GARDEN ALSO HAS FIRST-RATE ANIMATED MEDICAL FACILITIES, DESIGNED JUST FOR REMOVING PESKY *WETWARE.*

OR *INSTALLING* IT.

MEANWHILE.

DIO MIO, NO.

NOOOO!

Ghk.

OH GOD. DICK? DICK!

ARE YOU OKAY, MY DEAR? YOU DIDN'T CHECK BACK IN...

I--I CAN'T FIND DICK...HE'S JUST GONE... DID HE LEAVE ME?

Shh. CALM DOWN, HELENA. YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM ***POST-MENTAL INTEGRATION TRAUMA*** AS A RESULT OF THE HYPNOS INTERROGATION WE WILL FIND ***AGENT 37.***

NOW, TELL ME, WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?

I--I KNOW WHAT THE ***FIST OF CAIN*** INTENDS TO DO WITH THE ***PARAGON BRAIN***...

I SAW...I SAW WHAT THEY WANT. SO VIVID AND RED. SOMEHOW, THEY'RE GOING TO USE THE POWERS OF THE BRAIN...

...THEY'RE GOING TO FILL IT WITH HATE AND ANGER UNTIL IT'S BURSTING...AND THEY'RE GOING TO UNLEASH A PSYCHIC ATTACK AT THE **TEL-AVIV RALLY FOR PEACE.**

Name: MANHUNTER
DNA Identification: UNKNOWN
Secret Identity: UNKNOWN
Superhuman Power Set: Telepath/Empath

THEY WANT TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT THE FIST'S FOUNDER ESPOUSES...THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE DEPOPULATIONIST ***CHRISTIAN FLEISCHER***...

...THEY'RE GOING TO MANIPULATE PEACEFUL PEOPLE INTO KILLING EACH OTHER BY THE THOUSANDS!

THEY WANT TO SHOW THAT HUMANITY IS JUST AN ANIMAL BACKED INTO A CORNER, PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR SCRAPS.

THEY'RE GOING TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT THERE'S NO LOVE, NO COMPASSION, NO PEACE...

CAIN

"...THERE IS ONLY MURDER."

NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR HYPNOS I'LL USE THE GOD GARDEN TO *REVERSE ENGINEER* IT.

CRRNCH

KRAK

I'LL FOLLOW THE SIGNALS BACK TO WHERE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS GO.

PAK

I'LL FIND SPYRAL'S BASE, AND TAKE BACK THE PARAGON ORGANS YOU STOLE FROM ME. I'LL FLY THEM TO THE EDGE OF THE MULTIVERSE AND DROP THE DAMN THINGS IN A SUCKING BLACK HOLE.

Fnh.

AND THEN I'LL HUNT DOWN EVERY LAST SPYRAL AGENT AND FORCE THEM INTO AN EARLY RETIREMENT, INCLUDING YOUR PARTNER... *MATRON*, RIGHT?

ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO TELL HER BEFORE I BREAK HER LEGS, DICKIE?

Hnh. YEH-- YEAH.

"TSUCHIGUMO."

Ghk.

SUBLIMINAL POSTHYPNOTIC SUGGESTION. CAUSES YOUR *HYPNOS IMPLANTS* TO EMIT A MILD SHOCK TO YOUR BRAIN.

A LITTLE PRESENT FROM A FRIEND. IT TOOK ME A BIT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE WORD WAS. TURNS OUT IT'S JAPANESE FOR A *MYTHICAL SPIDER BEING.*

IT CAN ALSO MEAN "UNTRUST-WORTHY, THIEF..."

...OR "SPY."

THE FLYING GRAYSON. NIGHTWING. ROBIN. THEY WERE ABOUT MORE THAN FIGHT MOVES. THEY WERE ABOUT INSPIRATION. COMFORT. TRUST. FAMILY.

I GAVE THAT UP TO BECOME A SPY. A SPIDER MAN. A *TSUCHIGUMO.* I HAVE CHANGED.

BUT I'LL *ALWAYS* BE DICK GRAYSON.

KRAK

MR. GRAYSON.

WHAT THE--?

I MEAN YOU NO HARM. COME, WALK THE GARDEN WITH ME.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE ***MIDNIGHTER.*** HE IS...TEMPERAMENTAL, AND I AM FAR TOO LENIENT WHEN IT COMES TO SOME OF HIS BEHAVIORS. BUT I SUPPOSE I WILL ALWAYS HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR HIM.

HE WAS MY "FIRST CHILD," AND HE HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR ME.

LADY, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY PARTNER. YOUR "SON" TOOK ME AWAY FROM AN IMPORTANT MISSION.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR MISSION. AFTER ALL, ***PARAGON*** WAS CREATED FROM THE DROPS OF BLOOD AND DISCARDED SKIN CELLS OF THE EARTH-BOUND GODS...

...TO DESTROY ***ME.***

EVEN NOW THE ***FIST OF CAIN*** PREPARES TO USE THE PARAGON BRAIN TO MURDER THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN ISRAEL.

WAIT! YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE! YOU HAVE TO SEND ME THROUGH A DOOR! I NEED TO GET TO ISRAEL!

NO, ***DICK GRAYSON.*** I AM THE GARDENER. YOU MUST STAY WITH ME...

...TO SAVE THE ***GARDEN.***

NEXT: YEAH BUT WHA?!

DC COMICS PRESENTS…

[channel 52]

AQUA-MOM

QUOTE ME "You have come a long way to find death." —Atlanna, when she sees her son Arthur for the first time in AQUAMAN #38

We've teased it for a few months now, but February's AQUAMAN #39 finally does it:

Aquaman's mom is revealed to be alive!

Or is it really her? And if so, where's Atlanna been? And if the elder Queen of Atlantis is still alive, what's that mean for her son Arthur, the current King? Only the Aqua-team of writer Jeff Parker, penciller Paul Pelletier and editor Frank Pittarese know for sure! But in the meantime, here's what we DO know about her…

—**BRIAN CUNNINGHAM**
Group Editor of the Seven Seas

DEATH BECOMES HER Aquaman thought his mother Atlanna died when he was an infant, but when he recently discovered her grave was empty in issue #35, he and Mera embarked on a quest to find the one-time (and very much alive) Queen of Atlantis. Unfortunately for Arthur, Atlanna isn't entirely thrilled to see him. Perhaps some secrets are best left buried.

FASHION-FORWARD In the early stages of her design, Atlanna had a much sleeker costume, but that suit lacked the rough-and-tough style of a warrior queen. Artist Paul Pelletier added sharp shell-pieces, scales, and even a touch of seaweed to add a battle-ready texture to her look.

MESMERIZING MOM Atlanna's tribe obeys her commands both on land and in the ocean depths. Her devoted army will lay down their lives for their fierce leader! But how did she achieve such power…and will she use it to turn her family reunion into a bloodbath?

SPEAR OF STORMS This mysterious weapon isn't just effective in hand-to-hand combat; it can fire energy blasts as well as open windows into the past. But it's a past that neither Atlanna nor Aquaman wants to face!

FAMILY FACE-OFF It's been decades since Atlanna has seen her child, and now that they're face-to-face, there's no guarantee she'll even believe Aquaman is the person he claims to be. She fled Atlantis for a reason, and if this blond Atlantean encroaches upon her territory, he'll need to prove himself as her son and as a warrior.

IN STORES
FEBRUARY 2015

THE MULTIVERSITY GUIDEBOOK

DC All Access

The Multiverse: a collection of realities similar in so many ways, but vastly different in others. In one, a baby rocketed from the doomed planet Krypton lands in Kansas and becomes the World's Greatest Super Hero. In another, he lands in the Soviet Union and becomes the hero of the Communist Party.

The potential differences are endless—with each universe unique and each home to powerful superheroes and dangerous super-villains. Now at long last, we'll get to explore the whole lot of them.

In Grant Morrison's epic limited series THE MULTIVERSITY, readers have taken small peeks into some of the 52 worlds of the Multiverse, but with the upcoming MULTIVERSITY GUIDEBOOK, Morrison showcases every known world—and he's recruiting a cavalcade of amazing artists to illustrate them! From Gary Frank to Cameron Stewart to Gene Ha, and many, many more!

EARTH 43

We've gotten a chance to check out the GUIDEBOOK, which is filled with information, references, and eye-popping art that honestly makes us feel like we did when we read our very first comic book. We don't want to spoil the experience for you, but here is a tiny tease of what you can expect.

EARTH 32

EARTH 13

*Pick up THE MULTIVERSITY GUIDEBOOK on **JANUARY 21**!*

EARTH 13: A horror-filled, supernatural world that includes Superdemon, Hellblazer, Fate, Deadman, and more.

EARTH 32: Green Lantern Bruce Wayne battles evil alongside Super-Martian, Aquaflash, Wonderhawk, and others.

EARTH 43: A world filled with darkness and death—and ruled by a breed of super-powered vampires.

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